

APPENDIX J:

Loon Ranger Training and Responsibilities

MONTANA LOON RANGERS INTERNET RESOURCES

Videos:

Loon capture and processing: <http://www.vimeo.com/2945173>

Installing a loon cam: <http://www.vimeo.com/1121034>

“Ranger minute,” loon nesting, feeding chick: <http://www.vimeo.com/2442391>

Loon swimming and diving: <http://www.vimeo.com/890664>

Too close! (tremolo, oaring, penguin dance): <http://www.vimeo.com/298327>

Nesting, egg-laying on platform: <http://www.kare11.com/video/player.aspx?aid=30875&bw>

Loon Nest Cam:

Biodiversity Research Institute: <http://www.briloon.org/watching-wildlife/loon-cam.php>

Sounds:

Loon dictionary (Journey North): <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/loon/Dictionary.html>

Looney Tunes (Journey North):

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/loon/identification.html#Looney>

Loon Yodel Studies (Journey North):

http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/loon/YodelStudies_JM.html

Loon Sounds [all loon species] (Jungle Walk): <http://www.junglewalk.com/sound/Loon-sounds.htm>

Other Resources:

Beached Bird Guide for Northern Lake Michigan:

http://www.gtbay.org/downloads/beachedbirdguide1_1.pdf

Montana Field Guide [all loon species] MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

<http://fieldguide.mt.gov/displaySpecies.aspx?family=Gaviidae>

Loon Q&A (Journey North): <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/search/Loon.html>

Satellite Tracking of Loons: http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/index.shtml?project_id=95

Montana NRIS Loon Database: <http://nris.state.mt.us/apps/loon/default.asp>

Montana Loon Society: <http://www.montanaloons.org/>

TRAINING AGENDA

- Introductions
- Common Loon Ecology Presentation
 - PowerPoint for Indoor Talks
 - Loon Board for Outdoor Talks
 - Loon Costume Demonstration
 - Loon Behaviors
- Management Efforts
 - Floating Signs
 - Importance
 - Placement
 - Removal
 - Floating Platforms
 - Importance
 - Placement
 - Removal
- Public Education
 - Professional appearance and conduct (representing many agencies)
 - Eye contact
 - Introduce yourself (I'm ____ with the ____)
 - Break the ice
 - “How is the fishing?”
 - “Great day to be on the lake.”
 - “Gotta love the sunshine.”
 - Do not try to talk to them while they are loading or unloading a boat unless you are offering to help
 - Quickly state your purpose and point out signs
 - Give out information and lead free sinkers
 - Especially critical on Memorial Day and 4th of July weekends
 - Mostly one on one at ramps/campgrounds
 - Occasional evening programs
 - Loon Tour of the Thompson Chain of Lakes, Seeley Lake Loon Festival, and others
 - Methods
 - Loon PowerPoint
 - Loon Board for Outdoor Talks
 - Loon Costume Demonstration
 - Loon Trunk for teachers and rangers
- Monitoring System
 - Data sheets and how to record data
 - Area Coordinators
 - Data Base
 - Results from previous years
 - Montana Natural Heritage Program
 - Survey forms must be returned promptly
 - May 16 - presence of territorial pairs and possible nesting

- July 18- Loon Day survey counting all adults and chicks on all loon lakes
- A Day in the life of a Loon Ranger
 - Check on the birds/nests/chicks and signs
 - Recording Bands (Time permitting)
 - Examples of Daily/Weekly Schedules
 - Important Dates
 - Independent Working schedule
 - Mileage and Hour forms
- Personal Safety
 - Your safety comes first
 - Boat Safety
 - Life vests
 - Driving skills
 - Things to watch for when dealing with the recreating public
 - Most people are great to talk to but...
 - Watch for bumper stickers, hats, etc that indicate a dislike of biologists, environmentalists, governmental regulations, hatred of other wildlife species (ie: wolves, grizzlies), any indication of listening to "hate radio".
 - If you feel uncomfortable - get out
- Area Contacts
 - Area Biologist/MLS contact person/Area Coordinator/Supervisor
 - Lynn Kelly - 883-5797
 - Game Wardens and Enforcement Officers
 - Call if you observe violations of closed area or no-wake regulations, harassment of the birds, unsafe boating behavior.
 - Get boat numbers if possible
 - Get behavior on video if possible
- Personnel paperwork
- Field Equipment
 - Spotting Scope
 - Binoculars
 - Ranger Notebook with data sheets
 - Cold/wet weather gear
 - Hip boots/waders
 - Work gloves
 - Pocket knife/Multi-tool
- Field Work Training
 - Observations of loon behaviors on a local lake
 - Observations of banded loons
 - Placing floating signs
 - Interact with the public